

Claims

- [c1] A method for tracking checks through a mail system and a bank clearing system comprising:
 - obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece from a user;
 - receiving a check identifier associated with the mail piece;
 - receiving postal tracking data associated with the postal tracking identifier;
 - receiving check tracking data associated with the check identifier;
 - associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; and
 - sending the postal tracking data and the check tracking data to the user.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, wherein,
the postal tracking number is a PIC code.
- [c3] The method of claim 2, wherein,
the postal tracking number is received from a user.
- [c4] The method of claim 1, wherein,
the check identifier includes an ABA routing number, an

account number and a check number.

- [c5] The method of claim 1, wherein,
the check identifier includes an identifier provided by a
check tracking data center.
- [c6] A method for providing check tracking information to a
user comprising:
obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a
mail piece that includes a check;
receiving check information identifying the check;
associating the postal tracking identifier with the check
information;
receiving check processing information associated with
second check information;
receiving mail piece tracking information associated with
the postal tracking identifier; and
associating the mail piece tracking information with the
check processing information.
- [c7] The method of claim 6, further comprising,
authenticating the user; and
providing the mail piece tracking information and the
check processing information to the user.
- [c8] The method of claim 6, further comprising,
receiving the postal tracking identifier from a third party;

and

providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing information to the third party.

- [c9] The method of claim 6, further comprising,
obtaining a third tracking number associated with the check;
receiving the third tracking number from a third party;
receiving a pin code associated with the third tracking number from the third party; and
providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing information to the third party.
- [c10] The method of claim 6, wherein,
the check processing information includes an indication of whether the check has been paid.
- [c11] The method of claim 6, wherein,
the check processing information includes a processing history including time stamps and an indication of whether the check has been refused.
- [c12] The method of claim 6, wherein,
the postal tracking identifier is a PIC code.
- [c13] The method of claim 6, wherein,
the postal tracking number is received from a user.

- [c14] The method of claim 6, further comprising requesting the mail piece tracking information from a postal system server.
- [c15] The method of claim 6, further comprising requesting the check processing information from a bank system server.
- [c16] A method for tracking checks through a mail system and a bank clearing system comprising:
 - obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece from a user;
 - receiving a check identifier associated with the mail piece;
 - receiving postal tracking data associated with the postal tracking identifier;
 - receiving check tracking data associated with the check identifier;
 - associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; and
 - sending the postal tracking data and the check tracking data to the user, wherein the postal tracking number is generated by a mailing machine.
- [c17] The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 - transmitting the postal tracking code from the mailing machine to a central postal data center.

- [c18] The method of claim 17, further comprising:
printing the postal tracking code on the mail piece using
the mailing machine.

- [c19] The method of claim 17, wherein,
the postal tracking data and the check tracking data is
sent to the user via the mailing machine.